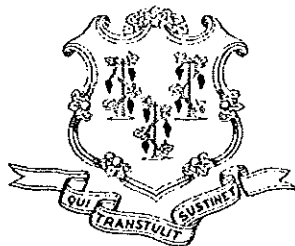


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State of Connecticut

SENATE
Eighteenth District

Assistant Majority Whip

Chair

Veterans' Affairs

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Environment

General Law

Program Review & Investigations

259

Statement of Senator Andy Maynard
Senate Bill 259
March 4, 2010

Members of the committee:

Thank you for raising SB 259 for a public hearing. I requested this legislation due to the problems a constituent, Lauren Middleton has had since her insurance company will not reimburse for MRI procedures. I will let Lauren give you the specifics of this situation.

More broadly, I am delighted to support SB 259, *An Act Concerning Insurance Coverage for Mammograms*.

This bill is a logical next step in the protections your committee has already established in statute relative to mammography. You've also provided for access to Breast Ultrasound for women who exhibit the characteristic of dense breast tissue or are at higher risk for cancer due to family or prior personal history with the disease. Last year, you added a requirement that a statement be placed on patient reports telling women about the tests available under the law.

SB 259 would add MRI as a covered test. I strongly support this. As you will hear from several experts today, mammograms have come to be considered a baseline test. If a patient presents with certain factors, additional tests may be warranted such as Breast Ultrasound. MRI is also an option for certain women after they have discussed the matter with their physician. It makes sense to add MRI to the statute.

I have no doubt that the laws you've enacted on this subject have resulted in lives being saved through earlier detection and treatment of breast cancer. SB 259 will add to the tools we have to attack this insidious disease. Thank you again for your interest in this legislation.